

Gaetano, Carolyn

From: MansfieldStorrs LymeDiseaseSupport <mslds@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2015 5:00 PM
To: GAETestimony
Subject: AN ACT DESIGNATING MAY AS LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH. CT Bill #5629.

I want to thank Rep. Christie Carpino for proposing Bill # 5629. I support this bill with enthusiasm and excitement.

As a coordinator of the Mansfield/Storrs Lyme Disease Support Group I have meet a surprising number of people in our area diagnosed with Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses. Many families tell me the same thing: they were unaware of the seriousness of Lyme. There are many myths and misconceptions about how one contracts tick-borne illnesses and what symptoms one needs to watch for after being bit. Often treatment is delayed due to simple lack of knowledge.

In our area just this past month we meet one family whose son was positive for Lyme and developed a large rash and bell's palsy within days after being bit, two boys in another family were exhausted with a flu and when tested were positive for Lyme and Ehrlichiosis, another family had more then one child affected by Lyme, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and/or Bartonella Henslae.

There are several people who were diagnosed very late in our area who have significant permanent issues even after treatment. These people were originally unaware of Lyme disease and never related their symptoms to a simple tick bite.

Connecticut is the state where Lyme disease was discovered. I think this is something to be proud of. By adopting May as Lyme Disease Awareness month we not only support our friends and family who are affected, but we help all our families remember to be cautious. We can use this month to educate about how to prevent future tick-borne illness.

Connecticut should be the shining example to the world on how to help educate families about tick bites and Lyme Disease. A Lyme Disease Awareness month is something we can be

proud of. I hope Mansfield can be one of the first towns to make this a success. I would like to see our schools, our camps and our environmental groups all benefit from Lyme education.

Sincerely,

Tia Demure

Mansfield/Storrs Lyme Disease Support

Mansfield, CT